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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

TSUYOSHI KOWAKA ET AL. : GROUP ART UNIT: 1713

SERIAL NO: 09/577,158 :

FILED: MAY 24, 2000 : EXAMINER: WILSON, D.

DIV. CPA FILED: SEPTEMBER 6, 2002 :

FOR: POLYVINYL ALCOHOL POLYMER  
PRODUCTION METHOD AND  
POLYVINYL ALCOHOL POLYMER

RECEIVED  
MAR 31 2003  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 3, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment, Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 of named coinventor Kazunori Watanabe (Watanabe Declaration) **submitted herewith**, and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 29, 31-40, 43-45, 47-50, 52-54 and 59.

Please amend Claim 55 as follows:

55. (Amended) A method of producing polyvinyl alcohol polymer comprising:  
saponification of a polyvinyl ester in an alcohol-containing organic solvent under the  
presence of a saponification catalyst, wherein saponification is carried out with a mole ratio